

**COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
(FY07 Budget Deliberations)**

April 26, 2006

5:30 PM

Chairman Garrity called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Garrity, O'Neil (late), Osborne, Gatsas, Duval

Messrs.: K. Sheppard, R. MacKenzie, B. Thomas, Sgt. Bartlett, C. DePrima,
R. Ludwig, S. Maranto, Deputy Chief Monnelly, T. Clougherty

Chairman Garrity addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Amend Table 5 of a Resolution "Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2007, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program."

By Deleting Project #511107 Parks, Recreation & Cemetery \$200,000
Gill Stadium Roof

Alderman Osborne moved to recommend that the Resolution be amended.
Alderman Duval duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Duval stated I just want to make sure again because of the deteriorating conditions that we have that when buildings need roof replacement and it is not done in a timely manner we know that we could be ensuing very expensive further damage. Is this going to be put on a time schedule?

Chairman Garrity stated this is simply here because Gill Stadium was put in the general fund and the roof was funded out of the Enterprise funding in a different table for CIP so the Enterprise cannot fund that roof if it needs to be replaced. It is more of a housekeeping issue.

Chairman Garrity called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Discussion relating to the proposed FY2007 CIP budget as follows:

- a) communications from the Planning Director providing additional information regarding the breakdown of several CIP cash and bond projects as requested at a meeting of the Committee on Finance held on April 17, 2006

Chairman Garrity asked is this is basically for informational purposes.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes it is. There were questions about where certain projects fell. We took the lists from the departments requesting those so that you could see specifically what a particular program would fund.

Alderman Lopez stated just for the record in reference to the \$250,000 for Information Systems, which is high technology I have a legal question in with the City Solicitor in reference to the one time account and whether the money could come out of there. I just wanted to note that. That would save us \$250,000 cash.

- b) request of Alderman Roy for improvements at the Campbell Street/D.W. Highway/Hamel Drive intersection

Alderman Roy called Kevin Sheppard and Bruce Thomas forward and asked the Clerk to hand out the traffic study report. With everything on this Committee's plate I will keep my comments brief and try to make them as direct as possible. The Campbell Street intersection is the intersection closest to Northside Plaza and the connection of Hooksett Road/DW Highway Route 3 and Crosbie and Campbell Streets. Laid out when the changes to the Northside Plaza happened, the intersection was built I believe incorrectly and has since been a problem for myself and the Alderman that preceded me. The concern that we are faced with is there are a number of issues within redesigning that roadway. There is a small brook. There are turning lanes. There are street lights and intersection lights. I would encourage this Committee to go ahead and improve and revamp this intersection. It is one of the few intersections in Ward 1 that can or ever would come in front of this Committee for bonding. We are not here very often being Ward 1 Aldermen. We have very few streets that are not running true north/south or east/west. We do the occasional stop sign but we very rarely come in for major infrastructure changes. That being said I would like Kevin Sheppard from the Highway Department to discuss some of the history and talk about the intersection and what improvements it would make for the citizens of the City.

Chairman Garrity asked has there ever been a formal presentation to the CIP Committee about this project.

Kevin Sheppard, Deputy Public Works Director, stated I don't believe...I am not sure there has been a formal presentation to the CIP Committee. It has been requested in the past from CIP. I believe it started showing up in the 2003 CIP budget request. As I said this project has been around for awhile, probably years before we started requesting funding in the 2003 CIP. In the FY06 CIP we did receive \$25,000 to actually have a traffic study done of the area. That traffic study came in I believe three or four months ago and that study is recommending the additional improvements to that intersection by adding additional lanes at Campbell and the DW Highway and extending from the street so that we have better turning movements in the area. The estimate at this time is \$1.1 million. It is, what we believe, a safety issue. It is something that needs to be addressed eventually. It has been on our CIP for quite a long time and some day we would like to see this addressed. We will continue to keep carrying it if for some reason it doesn't get funded.

Alderman Roy stated just to address the history of this a lot of concern goes into whether or not this is strictly just a Shop n' Save Northside Plaza issue. It really isn't. If you look at the traffic counts on peak and non-peak times and times that the shopping center is closed there is a lot of traffic between the Merrimack River and DW Highway that flows to 93 either north or south and this is the one access road between the Hooksett border and DW Highway where Beech Street and Dunkin Donuts is. If anyone is coming out of any of those homes in that area and going to 93 this is the road they travel.

Alderman Osborne asked who owns the shopping center there – Stop n' Shop.

Mr. Sheppard answered that is Hannaford. I am not too sure who the owner is quite honestly but Hannaford is the anchor store.

Alderman Osborne asked do they have any interest in this particular reconstruction where they seem to have a lot of traffic going in and out of there themselves.

Mr. Sheppard answered we have not approached Hannaford about this project.

Alderman Osborne asked do you think it would be a good idea to try that.

Mr. Sheppard answered if that is the will of the Committee or the Board.

Alderman Osborne stated I am not making it a will but I thought it would be a good idea to approach the shopping center whereas they have a lot of interest in that entrance and we could take it from there.

Alderman Roy stated it does relate directly to their major entrance but the usage of that intersection per the traffic study shows that there are far more residents using it than actual customers of the Northside Plaza.

Alderman Osborne responded that's fine. So it comes in at 25% rather than 50% or whatever it might be I still think it would be a good idea to talk to them. It wouldn't hurt.

Chairman Garrity stated I agree.

Alderman Duval stated Alderman Roy I imagine that the traffic congestion in addition to the speed of vehicles and the danger that the intersection currently presents has something to do with the request as well. When I visit there it looks like there is an awful lot of congestion and confusion on where to turn and when to turn.

Alderman Roy replied the traffic study basically states that with the amount of cars going through the intersection, the intersection is overloaded so what that causes is not only congestion but unsafe turning lanes, backing up through the Hamilton Street intersection from DW Highway at peak traffic hours and also the reverse as the nighttime traffic turns the other direction. So you end up having not only the congestion but traffic and safety issues for everyone venturing through that. According to the Police Department, some of the reasons there aren't more accidents is because everyone knows how bad it is and tends to slow down and get more congested. So the accident data isn't as high as it should be because you actually have people who think it is a dangerous hazard and avoid it.

Alderman Duval stated we were just presented this tonight, the traffic study report for this intersection but contained in this report. Does it call for a change that would result in less traffic on Campbell as a cut through?

Alderman Roy responded not really. The change is just to clean up what is already there and prepare it for what is going to happen over the next...I believe the traffic report goes out to a 2016 projection.

Alderman Duval asked Kevin what is the next logical step should this Committee approve funding. What happens next?

Mr. Sheppard answered what we would do is typically get a design, whether it is in-house or out of house, and get a plan to prepare for construction.

Alderman Duval asked so is it two or three phases.

Mr. Sheppard answered we have looked at whether this project should be or could be phased but all of the intersections in this area tie together so it would be difficult to phase the project.

Alderman Gatsas stated maybe we can talk a little bit about this traffic pattern so I understand what I am looking at here. I assume what is changing is if you are going East on Campbell Street you are turning that into two left-hand lane turns and one lane that either goes straight or makes a right so it is an addition of a lane and the land you are supposedly picking up is land that I assume is in the gray pattern?

Mr. Sheppard responded yes to the north.

Alderman Gatsas replied it is in gray.

Mr. Sheppard stated right I apologize. The copy I have in front of me is in color.

Alderman Gatsas stated so the color-coding that I am looking at in the gray is what you are looking to purchase to make the lanes turn correctly.

Mr. Sheppard replied the area that we would be looking at is I believe to the North and from what I understand is City property. I don't believe there is any widening that is needed on the South on Campbell Street.

Alderman Gatsas stated I am looking at the gray area that is coming down that you are going to have to put another lane in to head South because you have three lanes there and the three lanes there are pretty tight now. You only have two until you get within probably 20 feet of the light.

Alderman Roy asked are you coming south on Route 3.

Alderman Gatsas answered yes I am going south on Route 3.

Alderman Roy stated I believe the right-of-way is either state or City owned.

Alderman Gatsas replied I am just looking for a clarification because...and then you are going to extend the island up Campbell Street.

Alderman Roy responded correct.

Alderman Gatsas asked so that traffic coming south can't turn into the gas station.

Mr. Sheppard answered that is the recommendation that came back from the consultant but there is an access to that gas station off of Hooksett Road if they continue straight through the intersection.

Alderman Gatsas replied right but that is the only access.

Mr. Sheppard stated if you are coming South on Hooksett Road and take a right and go Westerly on Campbell Street right you wouldn't be able to turn into the gas station but you could go...

Alderman Gatsas interjected and the acquisition on Crosbie Street. That looks like a pretty tight access to the store that is there.

Mr. Sheppard stated I believe and Bob MacKenzie may be able to help me out but when that project went forward I am not sure if improvements were done there or some additional right-of-way was needed or taken at that time. Perhaps Bob can help me on that one.

Robert MacKenzie, Planning Director, stated I was just talking to Alderman DeVries about a couple of the plans. It did go to the Planning Board but I don't remember any expansion of the right-of-way on the Southside of Campbell Street. There have been some improvements on the Northside of Campbell Street but I don't remember any related to that...I think it is a Gas Mart right now.

Bruce Thomas stated I believe they did give the City an easement as part of that when they developed that site and also the residential site off the end of the curb, those folks also gave us an easement in order to put this turn lane in. However, we did factor in the budget about \$10,000 for survey and research to confirm all of that. In two cases we did get property easements given to us as part of the site plan and subdivision plans.

Alderman Gatsas stated the greatest fear I see with this plan because I have stood there many a morning holding on to a sign and waving but I can tell you that the traffic going through that intersection I would say on a regular morning basis you see two or three near misses from people running red lights and my fear is that putting in two left-hand turns going down Campbell Street the person in the right-hand lane making that left-hand turn North may not see some of the traffic that is ready to go because somebody has run it. I can tell you that increasing the number of lanes there...there is no question that there is a traffic problem but I would suggest that somebody go and stand there from 6:45 AM until 7:30 AM and watch how many near misses there are.

Mr. Sheppard stated I don't disagree with you. I go through that intersection quite often and one of the problems was the need for storage for vehicles. As you know vehicles back up on Campbell Street so there was a need for storage and one of the problems with engineering is we can resurface streets and reconstruct streets but we can't design for people to break the law.

Alderman Gatsas responded I understand that but I think what you are going to find is somebody needs to go and take a look at that before we start putting in a safety problem. I understand stacking is a problem and I understand people don't want to wait for lights but when you start putting in double lanes of turning and you have two more lanes coming the other way you could be asking for a problem.

Alderman Roy stated I would like to interject for a second. Alderman, the two lanes coming out of Campbell Street going Easterly turning towards the intersection of 93 would be the only green light at that time. The light at Crosbie Street is staggered to come out after that.

Alderman Gatsas responded I totally understand how that light section works because I told you I have been there many a morning. All I am saying is that I understand it is a staggered light but I can tell you the people coming on the DW Highway down when they see it yellow they are pretty close to running the light and all I can see are cars when you have two turning lanes you could run into a serious problem there. All I am saying is somebody needs to look at it from a safety standpoint. I don't question that they stack up. I have been there many a morning but the people...I can tell you that the biggest problem you are going to see is the stack up so much not on that left-hand turn but in the morning going across to Crosbie Street because people are going across to drop their kids off at either St. Catherine's...that is where the jam up normally comes because somebody is trying to make that right hand turn and the stack up is because that is also the lane that goes straight through. That is where you find some congestion and also you find the other lane backing up. So somebody ought to go out there and I am not talking...I am sure that the traffic engineers have been out there looking at and I guess I haven't had a chance to read this but I have some serious concerns with what timeframes they use these on. I see that they have weekday peak. I guess I would like to see what they consider peak hours.

Mr. Sheppard replied I believe peak hours are typically 6 AM until 8 AM.

Chairman Garrity asked is there a reason why this wasn't given to the Committee, the study, when the agenda went out.

Mr. Sheppard answered we saw the item on the agenda...

Chairman Garrity interjected we got 10 or 15 pages of material here and it was just handed to us.

Mr. Sheppard stated quite honestly I didn't realize that this was going to be a specific item on the agenda. Alderman Roy asked me to bring it along.

Alderman Osborne asked where is the most congestion here – on Campbell and Bicentennial or Hooksett Road and Campbell. What is the worst intersection? Where is the big problem?

Mr. Sheppard stated without looking at the back-up information a lot of it is the backing up on Campbell Street. A lot of the problems occur there.

Alderman Osborne asked Campbell and Bicentennial.

Mr. Sheppard answered right.

Alderman Osborne asked have you had a traffic count on Campbell coming from Hooksett Road and also once you take the right there to go up Bicentennial. Those two separate sections?

Mr. Sheppard answered I believe we have those traffic counts.

Alderman Osborne asked what are they.

Mr. Sheppard answered I believe it is in the report.

Alderman Osborne stated well I just got the report five minutes ago and I haven't had a chance to look through it. Do you know what the count is? Could you tell me?

Chairman Garrity stated we can only tell you if we know how to read traffic studies.

Mr. Thomas stated the right turn on to Hamel Drive from Campbell Street, the AM volume peak is 185, the PM volume peak is 425 and the Saturday peak is 328. That is peak hour volume. That is the right hand turn onto Hamel Drive from Campbell.

Alderman Osborne asked the right hand turn from Campbell Street on to Bicentennial.

Mr. Sheppard answered right. The plan you see...

Alderman Osborne interjected right in front of where the Stop n' Shop entrance is, how many cars go by there.

Mr. Sheppard stated if you are not familiar with the intersection right now, the way it works now is people who come off of Hooksett Road turn right onto Hamel Drive and then right onto Bicentennial. We can give you the volume on Bicentennial Drive.

Alderman Osborne asked where does Stop n' Shop come out to.

Mr. Sheppard answered Bicentennial Drive. It is Hannaford Brothers.

Alderman Osborne stated okay they come onto Bicentennial Drive so right at that intersection, right at Bicentennial Drive do you have any count going by that.

Mr. Thomas answered yes. Heading away from Shop n' Save on to Hamel Drive toward Campbell Street is 84 during peak AM, 189 during peak PM and 186 on Saturday.

Alderman Osborne asked so evenings are more than mornings.

Mr. Thomas answered correct.

Alderman Osborne asked and Saturdays are even worse.

Mr. Thomas answered Saturdays are about the same.

Alderman Osborne asked do you have a count beyond the entrance of Hannaford.

Mr. Sheppard stated no.

Alderman Osborne stated I would be interested to know that. How many people are actually going to Hannaford rather than using Bicentennial Drive and going beyond?

Mr. Thomas responded well we have a count that goes from Hamel Drive to Bicentennial Drive.

Mr. Sheppard stated but nothing that goes beyond the Shop n' Save.

Alderman Osborne stated that is what I would like to have to see how many people are actually using that to go home or wherever they are going rather than going to the supermarket or to that shopping center. I just want to get an idea of what the traffic flow is there. What I am trying to get at here is if there is such a traffic flow going into that plaza then there shouldn't be any problem with them coming up with a little bit of money to help us do that. That is what I am getting at.

Alderman Gatsas stated you have to understand that going by the Plaza takes you all the way up to NH College if you keep going straight. Knowing what is going into the Plaza, there is not a direct route into the Plaza.

Alderman Osborne replied there is coming off of Campbell Street and onto Bicentennial Drive. That is their entrance.

Chairman Garrity stated you are looking for a count that directly goes into their entrance.

Alderman Osborne responded no I would like to have the count that goes beyond their entrance.

Chairman Garrity asked is that doable.

Mr. Sheppard answered yes we can do that.

Chairman Garrity stated I think Alderman Osborne has a point. I would like to see a little investment from the Northside Plaza tenants because I think this is improving access to the Plaza. What fund would this come out of Kevin do you have any idea? Is it road reconstruction?

Mr. Sheppard responded as part of our CIP we actually identified this as a single project. We didn't put it under street reconstruction. We put this in as a specific project.

Chairman Garrity asked do you have a request for your FY07 road reconstruction. Do you have copies of that? What is the cost of design?

Mr. Thomas answered \$150,000.

Chairman Garrity asked and the total cost is \$1.1 million is that right.

Mr. Sheppard answered correct.

Chairman Garrity asked have we received a breakout of the costs yet – land acquisition, design, and engineering. Is there a breakout available to us yet or is it in this packet?

Mr. Sheppard answered it wasn't part of the traffic study.

Chairman Garrity stated before we spend \$1.1 million I think we should have a breakout of the cost in my opinion. I don't know how the rest of you feel.

Alderman Roy stated I will take full blame for them not providing it. I have asked them, as we have done on other projects, to really value engineer it. The number that they gave me last week or two weeks ago I asked them to come back with the budget restraints we are finding and see if there were any savings so that can be forwarded to the Committee and hopefully it will be slightly better than the \$1.1 million.

Alderman O'Neil stated Alderman Duval has told me that you already talked about the fact that this cannot be phased in at all.

Mr. Sheppard responded the traffic study I think discusses phasing but I believe the final recommendation was not to phase this project.

Alderman O'Neil stated in defense of Alderman Roy whether we think it is warranted or not he has followed this through for a couple of years and done the traffic study and some preliminary design. He has been patient about this and maybe we should have cut into it at the traffic study but the system allowed it to go forward. I don't know if there is any blame but we are all involved with it.

Chairman Garrity stated I will repeat my comments that I think it is important that we get some participation from the Northside Plaza tenants and I urge you to try to do that Alderman Roy. It is an expensive project and it is going to have an impact on their business. It is going to improve the traffic flow in my belief. I spent some time up there a couple of days ago on the corner of Campbell and Bicentennial and a lot of them were coming off of Campbell and taking a right on Bicentennial. I don't know if they were going down to NH College but I am quite sure a good majority of them were going to Northside Plaza.

Alderman Roy responded yes that is a feeder to Northside Plaza as well as neighborhoods of William Gannon and Chad Streets and Chase, which is on River Road by the Derryfield School. It is quite the intersection. I would just ask the Committee to review the CLD report and especially take note of Item G, the recommendations, where they strongly recommend doing the project.

Alderman Osborne asked where is the Hooksett line on here.

Mr. Sheppard answered I believe it is just before the entrance to the Plaza.

Alderman Roy stated yes it is directly at the entrance of the Northside Plaza and actually splits the building, which houses the supermarket and the retail stores in half.

Chairman Garrity asked are there any funds available in your road reconstruction for design or anything like that.

Mr. Sheppard answered if you would like I can look into that.

Chairman Garrity stated that would be helpful.

Chairman Garrity stated we are not taking any action on the handout regarding the Annual R.O.W. Street Reconstruction but if you look at the bottom item that is a big investment from a private developer that is going to benefit from that. I talked to them and they don't mind me releasing that number. It is \$4 million out of a \$4.7 million project that they are committed to invest. There is some interest out there in doing those types of things.

Alderman Roy stated I would commend the Chairman in obtaining that for the City and if it is the will of this Committee and the Board to send me or a representative of the City to Shop n' Save to ask then I would gladly ask Hannaford.

Chairman Garrity responded it would probably be the property managers or owners of Northside Plaza. I don't think you need a directive from the Committee.

Alderman Roy replied my only concern with that is if we are talking about a \$1 million project I am not going to ask for a certain amount...

Chairman Garrity interjected just ask them for \$950,000.

Alderman Osborne asked how about if Mr. Sheppard or the Highway Department drops them a line to let them know that they are working on this particular project and see what kind of interest they have in it.

Chairman Garrity answered that is duly noted and we will bring it up again in May. I don't plan on having another CIP meeting probably until May 15. That will give you a good month anyway.

- c) request of Alderman Duval for increasing project 610507 Prayer Hall Inc. Welcome Home Shelter/transitional housing by \$20,000 in Affordable Housing Trust Funds for a total appropriation from all sources of \$51,000

Alderman Duval stated the Aldermen should have received information pertaining to Welcome Home, which is an emergency shelter for the poor and needy in our community. It is situated in Ward 4, although that is not the only reason I brought it to the Committee's attention. It is a very impressive operation considering its short life here in Manchester. I can tell you that this shelter is truly taking care of the poorest of the poor in our community. I find it very interesting, the format for which they house residents, Mr. Chairman. They have a plan. It is not just another housing people but they are really working diligently and I think in a collaborative way to get people back to a good situation. I think they should be commended. I also think there is a significant impact on other municipal budgets, specifically the Welfare Department should we not invest in this operation. I think it is worthy of additional funding and just for a point of reference if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, because I am new if Mr. MacKenzie can take a minute to explain to me the difference between CIP and CDBG.

Mr. MacKenzie responded there are several different funding sources and we tend to break those out into the different tables. Prayer Hall is actually funded on two different tables. One is Table 1, which is other sources of income, normally federal grants. That is where we place projects that tap into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. That was started probably three years ago and has helped a number of affordable housing projects develop. I know there is \$12,000 identified from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Welcome Home. Table 2 is all of the programs funded by HUD. We do break that one out from cash and bond because they have very specific requirements. So this project is eligible for certain HUD programs but there are limitations as to how much we could provide to that particular organization through HUD funded programs.

Alderman Duval stated I understand and I think it was Chairman Garrity who informed me that there is some monitoring for a period of time should this be adopted by the Committee and the full Board. Can you explain that?

Mr. MacKenzie replied all of the non-profits we actually establish contracts with them and we set benchmarks so we do monitor the results of the program. We have to because the federal government requires us to monitor it. Are we providing support to low and moderate income individuals? Are we meeting all of the requirements of the federal government? Actually on a monthly basis we would get reports from each of these recipients and we would, therefore, be able to monitor the Welcome Home Center for a one-year period.

Alderman Duval stated just an additional comment. If you take the time to tour the facility I guess what impressed me most is that you read from time to time about organizations that are top heavy and that is where a lot of your funding goes, to fund administration. I will tell you that is not the case at all with this facility. They are truly doing God's work if you will. They really are. A number of these people are volunteers. They spend hours and hours and hours working with these people. It is quite the impressive operation considering that at least where they are it has been a very short time although the history of the directors, the people who actually run the facility, is rather lengthy. They have been in this business since the 1970's and have a fabulous reputation as individuals who are investing time with the people in our community that need the greatest assistance. Also one last observation. I think the facility wouldn't even be in operation today if it weren't for the backing, personal support and contribution from the Singer Family. The President of Merchants, Steve Singer, has contributed not only in cash to keep it afloat during its early months and its toughest time of the year through the winter but also in in kind services and volunteer hours and having their employees serve on the Board of Directors and so forth. It is quite the remarkable operation for its early years in existence.

Chairman Garrity asked is there funding available.

Sam Maranto, CIP, answered yes there is.

Chairman Garrity asked is it okay if we take that up in May when we start taking some action.

Alderman Duval stated that is fine.

Alderman Shea stated I, too, am very much in favor of this, not only from the point of view of the workings of it but from the fine work that has been done there.

- d) request of Alderman Duval regarding allocations for sidewalk improvements and the beautification for Hanover and Bridge Streets

Alderman Duval stated there are two components to this and actually I have to be honest with you. I don't have real specifics on this regarding the beautification of Bridge and Hanover other than I will tell you that I met with Stephanie Lewry from Intown and I am meeting with some people from the Chamber of Commerce and I think with some private funding we will accomplish at least an initial goal to begin to beautify Bridge Street and Hanover Street where they meet Mammoth Road. We are trying to create a feel of gateways to the City, especially Hanover, which is a grand street that is long in historical significance to Manchester. I think it is important that the City begin to think about beautifying those intersections where we have a tremendous volume of traffic of people coming into our City because I think it's current condition is rather...it is not notable only in the sense that the condition is poor. So I am working on that privately to accomplish that but regarding sidewalks and again specifically relating to Hanover Street the condition is really deplorable. You cannot walk from Mammoth Road to Elm Street without suffering a fractured ankle. I just can't believe that a street of this significance to our City has been allowed to deteriorate to that degree. The 50/50 Program in some areas of the City may work but I think the sentiment is from neighbors or residents of Hanover Street that...they pay their tax bill every year and they put up with traffic and that is okay but they are thinking that maybe the City should consider funding an improvement of Hanover Street given the fact that it is a gateway and I think there is an exception perhaps to be made for that street. I would just urge the Committee and perhaps invite input from Mr. MacKenzie as to what the plan is to begin to address some of the deplorable sidewalk conditions in this City because I think it is really getting to a point of no return and I can't imagine what it is going to cost in future years to try to bring this up to standard.

Mr. MacKenzie stated there is certainly a need in the neighborhoods for improvements, particularly to sidewalks. We are starting to look at some of the neighborhoods now in places like Kelley Street and Wilson Street and the Hollow but it will certainly take an investment by the City at some point to repair all of the sidewalks that are needed. I am familiar with Hanover Street and I know the difficult parts there but it does come down to money. It may be possible if the Committee wants to look at it more to look at costing out some of these particular areas. To get the Highway Department to do an evaluation of the worst sections and cost out what the alternatives would be to construct that.

Alderman Duval stated Mr. Chairman maybe you can help me out because you have been on the Board a lot longer but how does an Alderman go about bringing attention to a project like this and where does this start. Does the City have a plan to begin to address some of the sidewalk conditions in the City...a Master Plan if you will so that each year the Board can be dealing with specifics relative to certain areas of our City? I think there is a distinction to be made between

gateways and other streets, I really do. I think the City has invested tremendously in downtown. We now have venues in downtown Manchester that are bringing in people from out-of-state and Hanover and Bridge are certainly access routes to 93 and it is just a shame to see it in that kind of ill repair.

Chairman Garrity asked Mr. Ludwig or Mr. MacKenzie have there been any studies on the gateways into the City. Any studies of cost or anything of that nature? Any studies on the sidewalks?

Mr. MacKenzie answered there have been some studies in the downtown area in terms of setting standards for sidewalks. I know the Highway Department has provided us with some information and we have to get back to that in terms of standards but it does not cover the entire City in terms of what the standards should be and we don't really have an evaluation of all of the areas in terms of what the cost would be to reconstruct or...in many places there are simply no sidewalks. There will be sidewalks and then no sidewalks and then they will start up again. There are missing links in a lot of the neighborhoods. Some of the sidewalks have been attacked but in terms of the monies that are available it has been limited to attack all of these sidewalks.

Alderman Osborne stated I think it was last year that we took a walk with Mayor Baines through the different wards – 5, 7 and so on. What was that particular venture about? Weren't there some monies that were coming in or something? Like \$500,000 or something that we could use for sidewalks and curbing or start there?

Mr. MacKenzie replied the \$500,000 that was identified was a larger project area that included the downtown so that \$500,000 wasn't really all earmarked for just neighborhoods. There are two proposed projects in the CIP this year – Neighborhood Revitalization, that are more focused on the neighborhoods and I think in total they are about \$450,000 to work on infrastructure, curbing, sidewalks and maybe street trees and I think that is something that perhaps after this process is over it would be good for the Committee to review in detail how some of those funds could be allocated.

Alderman O'Neil stated I know and Kevin Sheppard may be able to help me out on this but I know we put together a program and had a priority list for school sidewalks and have followed that fairly well based on funding levels and such. I think Jewett Street was one we just finished and that was over a number of years. We have had a school sidewalk program and it was as aggressive as possible. I am a big advocate of the 50/50 program. I know there are some that believe it goes to certain sections of the City but I encourage people from all over to apply. Just get an estimate from the Highway Department and once they have the

estimate submit the application and check and get on the list. The discussions about Bridge and Hanover Street as a gateway is pretty interesting because they absolutely are. An awful lot of people come into the City using those two streets and it may be something we can work out long-term. I don't know how we get there short-term unless we pass a significant bond to do it.

Alderman Duval stated specifically related to Hanover Street because we are fortunate with Bridge in that major road construction was done just six years ago so we are in relatively good shape with regard to sidewalks there but specifically related to Hanover is it possible and I am sort of asking an open ended question here to the Committee members as well but to at least work up a cost estimate for doing a complete sidewalk renovation from Mammoth down to Maple I would imagine just so we can begin to understand the costs that are associated with that type of project.

Alderman Osborne stated while you are at it you can go down Lake Avenue all the way down to Maple. I think the problem with sidewalks is that we have a lot of absentee landlords out there and this 50/50 is a very good thing. I love it but you have a lot of absentee landlords in my ward especially and that is why it looks the way it does with sidewalks. It is a tough situation. If we start doing too much than we open a can of worms and everybody wants a sidewalk. The phones will be off the hook. We have to be kind of careful here.

Chairman Garrity replied I think we really need a plan first. Maybe you can put your request in a little more detail to Bob MacKenzie and Sam Maranto and see what it would cost to study those targeted areas.

Alderman Duval stated Mr. MacKenzie I certainly would like to see...again if we are going to begin to address Hanover Street as a gateway to the community I think it is a fair place to start. I don't know what the cost involved in doing a cost work up is but I would certainly like to see that initiated soon.

Mr. MacKenzie replied we can, if the Committee would like, work with the Highway Department. They do virtually all of the cost estimating. We could determine what areas are eligible for what types of funding. Probably about 1/3 of Hanover Street could be funded under HUD CDBG programs but the balance could not so that would have to be a bond. We could work with the Highway Department to look at that.

Chairman Garrity stated you said 1/3 of Hanover Street could be CDBG or HUD funding right. Is that where the \$250,000 is coming out of the Hanover Street improvements for the sidewalks that is currently in the FY07 budget.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes.

Alderman DeVries stated I certainly don't disagree with the gateway philosophy because we do have many people that come into the City from many directions. I know that Alderman Garrity and I probably agree that South Willow Street that has its share of issues with sidewalks can in places break as many ankles and has the weed issues and the litter issues. It is still a gateway and attracts many out-of-staters, both through the Mall of NH and down South Willow Street and it is disheartening to see these major gateways really not be a good presentation of our City. I might suggest that the general concept we refer to Lands & Buildings because we did have a couple of initiatives on the table last year I think for doing a litter clean up on some designated roadways. There was another presentation to the full Board I think from a group that Jenny Angell had brought in that was part of a management program identifying some partnering to clean-up certain hot spots. Maybe we can just pull it all together and start identifying the gateway areas and come up with some long-term initiatives. I agree with everybody else that we would have cleaned up many of our gateways and provided many more sidewalks if the funding had been there for us. It always comes down to those difficult choices for deciding between education, highway, trash and sidewalks. They are difficult choices. We are lucky that we have made the progress around the schools that we have. I am all for trying to work with you to look at all of the gateways, identifying them and master plan things.

Alderman Shea stated very briefly to fold right into this particular situation, both Candia Road and Cilley Road have been waiting for quite awhile. So if you want to fold in things, gateway, Candia Road is a wonderful gateway. People come right into Manchester through Candia Road so fold that right into it Bob.

Alderman Lopez stated we could probably through all 12 wards in there. The point that I wanted to make was I was down on Union Street today and we have the same thing there. When you walk down the street there are a lot of residences there and you have dirt because of the 50/50 program. I think what needs to be done just as a note is the 50/50 program is great but there are owners that will not do it so how do we capture that? For example if we had this owner doing it and the next door neighbor is not going to do it and Highway says you have to pay 50% so I want to caution that there should be some type of safety factor where we go in and do sidewalks for the good of the people. How you do that and categorize them a and b? Well school is number one because the kids have to walk to school and I think Alderman O'Neil said that already. What kind of categories can we go to and I don't think we really have that particular category for those people who don't want to clean-up their area but pedestrians have to suffer.

Mr. Sheppard replied I believe Bob MacKenzie touched on that a little bit earlier. A lot of it depends on funding. Most of the funding for sidewalks in the past year has been for the school sidewalk program. There hasn't been much funding outside of that program to address what you are talking about.

Alderman Lopez responded I understand that but I think this Board has a concern about the sidewalks in all neighborhoods.

Chairman Garrity stated this is budget deliberations.

Alderman Osborne stated I brought something in to CIP one or two years ago when I requested \$300,000 for repaving, which was approved. I did put in for a couple of hundred thousand dollars for sidewalks extra but we should start somewhere with this someday putting a little towards sidewalks each year and get something done in the City somewhere. It is not getting any better that's for sure.

Alderman Roy stated I told you I probably wouldn't speak after I presented that program but I would like to bring my colleagues back to the issue of safety of people walking on the sidewalks and spending millions of dollars there is the same as safety of people riding in our vehicles. So as we look at the CIP, please look at all programs as well as all of the Ward 1 gateways – Amoskeag Bridge and Elm Street.

Alderman Duval stated I appreciate the Committee's indulgence on this issue. I appreciate it. I know it was time spent. Thank you.

- e) request of Alderman DeVries requesting funding for two Storm Drain Infrastructure projects (Walnut Hill and Roysan/Lois Drainage)

Alderman DeVries stated I would like to correct the record right off the bat. I am certainly not in here requesting the Walnut Hill project. I think that came in from the Mayor's Office. I am requesting, because there was an understanding that the Lois and it is not going to accomplish both Roysan and Lois but the amount of money that was put into CIP was meant to accomplish both of those projects. We are just looking to clarify that at least Phase I of the project will reach that neighborhood that not only has been suffering with...they have an above ground spring that surfaces between South Porter Street and Lois Street and this has been in certain years a spring...Alderman O'Neil knows because he has had individuals contacting him as an Alderman At-Large. It becomes a spring that everybody tries to move somewhere to keep it out of their basements and it literally becomes a brook that runs down. When it gets directed out into the roadway of course they are cited because you are not allowed to discharge out onto the roadway because it

will ice and be a safety hazard in the winter. It is a problem that needs to be corrected. With nowhere to put the water they need storm drains in place and I have been working on this with Alderman O'Neil now for three years.

Chairman Garrity stated there is enough funding for both projects.

Alderman DeVries replied yes so this is just designating that that will get accomplished.

Chairman Garrity stated Walnut Hill is designated as priority 1 and then Roysan and Lois are priority 2. Are you going to do them in that priority?

Mr. Sheppard responded we have had a few projects on the list for quite awhile. From what I understand the money was approved for Walnut Hill Avenue...

Chairman Garrity interjected both projects can get done right.

Mr. Sheppard replied yes we believe we can get both projects done.

Alderman Gatsas asked do you have a priority list.

Mr. Sheppard answered we have a list of projects. Some have been on the list for awhile.

Alderman Gatsas asked how long.

Mr. Sheppard answered I would say something like Lois and Roysan has been on the list for...

Alderman DeVries interjected I think it was 1985 the first time they asked for it.

Mr. Sheppard stated so when we request CIP funds and we ask for what we call major chronic drainage projects those are items that are larger than \$25,000.

Alderman Gatsas asked can you provide this Committee or the full Board with the list of projects and their order of priority and the cost.

Mr. Sheppard answered sure. Some of them may be the same priority.

Alderman Gatsas asked how long has Walnut Hill been on that list.

Mr. Sheppard answered in the past year it has really come to our attention. That area has needed sewer and drainage and we identified that when the private development went on up there in the past year or two. The drainage issues have increased.

Chairman Garrity stated I really don't want this to become a battle of the wards here.

Alderman Roy stated I agree but to answer Alderman Gatsas' question when Charles Gagne built his house in 1986 he was promised that the sewer line was a year overdue and was going to be done shortly. So the sewer and water lines at that point were promised. Both projects can be accomplished and I am looking forward to both of them being done.

Alderman Gatsas responded let me understand what you are saying Alderman. We are spending \$230,000 to hook up one house to water and sewer?

Alderman Roy replied no you are spending closer to \$600,000 to \$800,000 to run storm water and sewer through a neighborhood that is getting overrun with water from an additional neighborhood – to clean-up drains that are literally overflowing and sewer lines that are insufficient.

Alderman Gatsas asked where is the other \$400,000.

Alderman Roy answered that would come out of EPD funds that were already approved in the budget or are pending approval in the Mayor's budget. The Mayor has also made this a very high priority.

Alderman Osborne stated Mr. Sheppard we do need a list because where is cemetery brook right now.

Mr. Sheppard responded that is actually part of our CSO program.

Alderman Osborne asked how many years has that been on the hook.

Mr. Sheppard answered that has been out there for awhile but that is a major project.

Alderman Osborne stated but if we don't start somewhere at sometime it will never get done. Every year goes by and they say it is too much money.

Mr. Sheppard replied that is why it is being looked at as part of our CSO. As part of the CSO program, the second phase, that is being negotiated.

Chairman Garrity stated I would like to encourage my colleagues that we are going to stick to the agenda. I know everybody has these issues in their wards.

Alderman O'Neil stated Alderman DeVries is right. I bet if you go back and look at the records Dick Crotty was probably the Alderman in Ward 8 when Roysan and Lois Street first came up. It has been around a long time. This takes care of 70+ houses.

Alderman DeVries stated yes and Frank Thomas was also a brand-new engineer the first time that it was brought up. He was the first junior engineer that went out and walked and gave some feedback.

Alderman Shea stated I know that Mr. Booth in Ward 5 has had a problem and you know how many times I have been up in that area. That should be on that priority list if it isn't. One of the problems that I have encountered is when there was redistricting, Ruth Avenue, and I know Bruce you have been over there with me probably 50 times and this is another and that is on the list too so I don't mind being on the list but when things are moved out of necessity because of certain prioritizing situations it becomes a little bit disconcerting for those who only sit and wait if you get what I am saying. I don't think that is the right way to do things. I am assuming next year I will be throwing myself at the mercy of the court here like others are tonight and explaining how it is possible not to get too much funding for a particular ward but what is fair is fair.

Chairman Garrity asked we are going to get that list for CSO or drainage projects right Kevin.

Mr. Sheppard answered yes major drain projects.

Chairman Garrity stated there is another fund for chronic drain for smaller projects right.

Mr. Sheppard replied yes. Chronic drain are projects in the area of \$10,000 or less.

Chairman Garrity stated we should provide the Aldermen with that list.

Mr. Sheppard replied we provide that list to this Committee frequently when we come in asking for projects.

Alderman DeVries asked can I make a suggestion on chronic drain because chronic drain was reduced in this budget proposal. I think it should be increased because we all have these long lists.

Chairman Garrity answered we can take that up in May. We are going to get the new list by May anyway.

- f) request of Alderman DeVries for funding of speed and noise enforcement

Alderman DeVries stated I am feeling like a broken record. This is one of my favorite projects brought forward a few years back. This is extra detail monies that we put forward for speed and noise enforcement. As you know we started the first year with something like \$14,000 to put towards this very flexible program. We have increased it and I am asking that we increase it up to \$50,000 this year. What we had occur last year is we never had our...because of hiring difficulties never had the full-time traffic officer...the force was never increased for traffic officers so this was the only program we had available to us as Aldermen throughout the City. We use this at flexible times. We can call up the Police Department and let them know about the motorcycle noise that occurs at midnight in areas...the complaints that we receive. We can let them know at 6 AM we have some trucks with speeding issues or commuter traffic. It is a flexible program. They deal it out in increments of four hours. They will send details out to address the hot spots for us for noise and speed in residential neighborhoods. It is an essential program. It was dropped from the budget. I not only want to see it back in the budget but I am asking that we increase it from \$45,000 to \$50,000 this year. We can't do enough. We know that from the noise complaints we receive. We know it from the speed complaints in our residential neighborhoods. It shouldn't be dropped and that is my request for CIP.

Alderman O'Neil stated a lot of the time and energy that is spent looking at signalization and other improvements can be taken care of simply by enforcement. I was disappointed that the position never got hired. I thought that it was a priority and for some reason of the four that we committed to three got sent to the Patrol Division and the Traffic Division never ended up with their full-time body but they are the ones who hear from us regularly about this. I think that no matter what we end up with this year regarding manpower at the Police Department it has to be a priority that an officer has to be dedicated to those kind of off hours in the late afternoon/early evening for speed, parking and noise enforcement. I am disappointed that it didn't happen and I think we would be able to solve a lot of quality of life problems in the City with that position.

Chairman Garrity responded that being said all of these requests...I am not going to accept any motions tonight. I think it is fair to wait for the public hearing. I think we should discuss this in May. I think some of this is justified but I think we have to keep our bonding under control and we should look at cutting some things. That will be our discussion in May, not this meeting. We are just hearing the requests at this meeting.

Alderman Duval asked can I get a quick explanation on why this would be CIP and why not a position funded through the ranks of the Police Department.

Mr. MacKenzie answered last year it was in CIP because there were federal and state funds for \$6,000 and the City matched it.

Alderman Duval asked specifically relating to these areas of concern.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes. This year there is no such grant program from the state so it could either be in CIP or right in the department's operating budget.

Alderman Duval asked so we should consider that when we come to take a vote on funding. It seems to me this is a normal function of the Manchester Police Department and if we are funding additional police officers then maybe that is where it should be.

Alderman Gatsas stated I took the \$40,000 and deducted the \$1,590 for equipment and divided it by 604 hours and came up to a cost of \$63/hour. One man \$63/hour. I know that this is informational but maybe the other night when I was asking somebody about the efficiencies we need to start understanding efficiencies as a Board because that is what drives budgets is efficiencies. If they are inefficient...

Alderman DeVries interjected to be fair Lt. Valenti could not be here this evening.

Alderman Gatsas stated I am just throwing that out on the table. Nobody needs to explain it tonight. I can only tell you that the red flag went up when I did the math.

Sgt. Bartlett stated I can tell you that I certainly don't make \$63/hour but this is a four hour block of overtime and those overtime figures vary obviously depending on how long the officer has been with the department and where his pay scale is at the time he takes the overtime. Those items can vary but the hours are paid out at a four-hour block of overtime.

Alderman Gatsas responded I understand. All I am saying is it calculates to \$63/hour. I am not saying you get paid that. I am just doing the simple math. There has to be some justification. I subtracted the equipment so nobody can say I left it in - \$1,590 for the equipment. I divided that \$40,000 by the hours shown on the chart that shows 296 hours for noise enforcement and 308 hours for speed enforcement. I took those two numbers and added them together and came up with 604 hours and divided that into the balance and came up with \$63/hour. If you are not getting it...I don't know if there is a police officer in that entire building that gets paid \$63/hour for overtime. There must be somebody picking up quarters off the floor somewhere.

Chairman Garrity stated we will have them back to our meeting in May to discuss this.

Alderman DeVries stated it should go to Traffic is probably where Lt. Valenti should have that conversation.

Chairman Garrity responded if it is CIP funding it belongs here I would think.

Alderman DeVries stated what I would ask that Alderman Gatsas remember is that the fines collected for noise ordinance just went from \$125 to \$250. This is a major enforcement tool. That is the only piece that goes into the City coffers so we need to add some revenue numbers back in that will offset this program.

Alderman Gatsas replied with all due respect Alderman I am only looking at an efficiency number. That is why when I asked it the other night and I got some strange looks from people...I am not saying that any policeman in this City gets paid \$63/hour but if we are giving them \$40,000 I want to know where the money is because if they are not getting it where is it?

Alderman Osborne asked Sgt. Bartlett are the funds completely depleted now.

Sgt. Bartlett answered I am not really sure exactly what the accounting is.

Alderman Osborne asked how much of this has been used for speeding. How much money have you made for speeding?

Sgt. Bartlett asked are you talking a dollar figure and how much we have spent on speeding enforcement.

Alderman Osborne answered well how much you spent and how much you have gotten back from it.

Sgt. Bartlett stated I am not really sure what the accounting figures are and how much has been spent thus far. As far as what we get back from that any fines that are associated with a state speeding summons go to the state.

Alderman Osborne replied that is the part that gets me. We are spending money here in the City and yet the state will get all of the speeding fines. I think we should be spending a lot of money maybe someplace else. I know one thing is as bad as the other but it doesn't seem...I think Alderman Gatsas can get in on that one but anyway I never could see why moving violations went to the state and non-moving violations come to the City. I don't know where this money goes up in Concord but I think we could use a little here if we are going to implement different programs on speeding.

Alderman Gatsas responded let me help you. The money doesn't go into the general fund in Concord. It goes into the court system.

Alderman Osborne stated well we need some changes there too probably.

Alderman Forest stated this radar detail or whatever is this an extra detail or a time and a half detail.

Sgt. Bartlett responded it is a time and a half overtime four-hour block where the officers will go out and take the hot spot list that we receive from City complaints and from various Aldermen. We will run radar in those areas and attempt to hold people accountable for speed violations. Sometimes the complaints are stop sign violations – a lot of four way stop signs in the neighborhoods and things like that. The noise enforcement with motorcycle noise and the coming of the good weather. Loud exhausts and car stereos. It all sort of rolls into that four hour block of overtime.

Alderman Forest asked is that a two-man detail or a one-man detail.

Sgt. Bartlett answered generally one officer goes out at a time but we have done it multiple times in the course of a week. I know the noise enforcement right now is running four times a week I believe.

Chairman Garrity stated so we will be looking for some potential funding for that in May.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to bring to your attention and we can probably follow up with it at a future CIP meeting but the agreement was four officers last year – one to enforcement and I don't know why that didn't happen and three officers went on the street. I know they got the four officers and I agree with Alderman O'Neil. That was the reason we gave them four officers in their budget.

Alderman Roy stated I would like to reiterate what I said last year. \$40,000 can get you a full-time police officer versus overtime and as we are trying to improve our complement I believe the money would be better spent on a full-time 2,000 hour a year officer versus a 608-hour a year officer.

- g) request of Alderman DeVries for funding of bleachers at the South Junior Deb Field

Chairman Garrity stated I am going to request that this be withdrawn as I believe it is all set right.

Alderman DeVries responded yes that has been taken care of so it is withdrawn.

- h) request of Alderman Garrity for additional funding in the amount of \$120,000 for the Calef Road Park, and
- n) Parks, Recreation and Cemetery – Weston Tower

Chairman Garrity stated with the Committee's indulgence I am going to add Weston Tower to this request. There is a funding shortage for the Calef Road Park and Parks and Recreation has some issues with Weston Tower. I would ask them to step forward.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson asked are we combining item n with item h.

Chairman Garrity answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked for clarification when you say Calef Road Park it is referred to on another page as Calef Road Tennis Courts Facility Renovation.

Chairman Garrity answered yes.

Chuck DePrima, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation, handed out drawings for the Calef Road Park project.

Chairman Garrity stated I would like to have Mr. DePrima explain why there is a funding shortage in the proposed improvement.

Mr. DePrima stated the original budget that we asked for took care of a playground up near the roadway and some associated parking and design work as well for the site. It is a difficult site. It is a steep slope that goes quite a bit up hill and the request came forward to do some extra design possibly with just a pass of parking and replacing and removing the existing tennis courts, which have chronically seem to be a problem with vandals and underage drinking. Once that additional request came forward I worked with Dennis Anctil at the Highway Department just to get some very rough estimates to remove the asphalt and remove the fencing, loom and seed and then put in some low level lighting just for security reasons down in this area and some landscaping and benches and other site amenities.

Alderman O'Neil asked Chuck currently to get to the tennis courts you come off of Garfield Street.

Mr. DePrima answered that is correct.

Chairman Garrity stated I guess the increased funding came from a neighborhood meeting. The area where the tennis courts are...the current funding covered the playground, which is off of Garfield Street. It kind of left the tennis courts there, which is really blighted and it is all overgrown and the fence is in disrepair and things like that. It doesn't make sense to spend that amount of money on a playground and leave $\frac{3}{4}$ of the area blighted. It is a 2.4 acre site.

Alderman Gatsas stated I would think that we would want to take the opportunity to expand that park area.

Chairman Garrity responded the request...

Alderman Garrity interjected it is not my ward but I think that is an ideal spot to put a much larger playground area.

Chairman Garrity stated well 170 letters went out to the neighborhood. We had a meeting and this is what the neighborhood would like to see. It was kind of an expanded area that it went out to. It went out to Floyd and Titus and Garfield and Westminster, Blackstone...it was a pretty wide area that the letters went out to. When you talk expansion are you talking like basketball courts or things like that?

Alderman Gatsas replied no I am talking about something like Derryfield Park and I am not talking about the tennis courts but the playground. That is probably the busiest playground in the entire City. All I am saying is that rather than just...well it is not my ward.

Chairman Garrity stated well it is a neighborhood playground and that is why it is the size it is.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think we over the years have taken two different approaches. We have taken the kind of regional...well southeast and northwest and I think that is what Derryfield is and I think we have much smaller playgrounds in other sections. If I may, Chuck did the Parks Master Plan look at this at all?

Mr. DePrima responded yes it was high on the priority list.

Alderman O'Neil asked what did they recommend.

Mr. DePrima answered a playground. One other thing that should be noted that is not apparent necessarily from this aerial photo is these areas right here are extremely steep slopes.

Alderman O'Neil asked what is the new dollar amount then.

Chairman Garrity answered \$344,000 was approved by the Mayor and it requires an additional \$120,000 to remove the tennis courts and fencing and get rid of some of the overgrown...there is some tree removal involved and some lighting too.

Mr. DePrima stated right some lighting for security purposes and also because it is an area that is kind of...since this area is below this area it has always been sort of a problem for the police to view it and things like that so one of the other measures that is going to be taken as part of this is to clear a lot of this underbrush to improve visibility in there.

Alderman Gatsas asked and that is \$460,000.

Chairman Garrity answered Chuck can you explain how difficult the playground is going to be because of the steep grade and what is required to put the playground in there.

Mr. DePrima stated again it is a very steep slope coming up Garfield Street so in order to set...we obviously have to set the playground level and in order to do that if you were to hold the existing grade there and keep it level across coming up Garfield Street and keep it up near the road for security and visibility decreasing vandalism because it is visible from the neighborhood you will most likely have an 8' to 10' retaining wall on that side. On the uphill side of Garfield Street.

Alderman Gatsas stated I am not a park planner but why wouldn't you come in off of Calef Road and design it down at the end by the station.

Chairman Garrity responded I think part of the reason is it is very steep there too.

Mr. DePrima replied accessibility. That is also a very, very steep slope.

Alderman Gatsas asked what is the grade.

Mr. DePrima answered it is roughly from here to the top of this area where the courts are a 22' vertical distance.

Alderman Gatsas asked what is it from the street to where you just pointed.

Mr. DePrima answered from the street to here it is relatively flat.

Alderman Gatsas asked what is it going north.

Mr. DePrima answered again it is hard to see on this plan but it is fairly steep over here and then they flattened out an area around the fire station that is probably 20' or 30' and then it starts to climb up this way to the west.

Chairman Garrity stated that small parking area next to the fire station is for the firefighters to park. It was important to put the playground close to the neighborhood because I don't know if you folks have been down to Brown-Mitchell Park when that was done a year or two ago but it has been there for quite sometime and it is right next to the neighborhood and they really keep an eye out for it. There are no graffiti issues and no vandalism issues. It is close to the street and the neighbors can monitor it.

Alderman Gatsas asked what did we spend on that.

Mr. DePrima answered that playground on a much flatter site was \$160,000.

Alderman Gatsas asked what did we spend at Derryfield.

Chairman Garrity stated we can talk about the Weston Tower now that is funded in the Mayor's budget.

Alderman Lopez stated I do have a question. I commend the Alderman in bringing this forward. Is there a priority list for parks from the Parks Director to help out the Committee? Do you have a priority list of parks? I know when I was a Commissioner we had one. Could you provide that to the Aldermen please?

Ron Ludwig, Parks & Recreation Director, stated it would be right out of the Master Plan. We can certainly do that.

Chairman Garrity asked and the Park Study said this site was one, two or three wasn't it.

Mr. Ludwig answered yes.

Chairman Garrity okay Weston Tower is funded in the Mayor's budget but there is no funding for some forestry work up there and some issues that you folks have with the site so if you could just explain that and why we require additional funding up there.

Mr. DePrima stated we require some additional funding up there because we felt that if any significant repairs and restorations were put into the tower that it would be prudent to concurrently address the site and any and all issues that we have related to activities that go on up in those woods – you know legal problems that have been going on up there. I spoke today with John Brown in the mowing division who would be taking care of the site up there and he gave me an estimate of \$8,000 to \$10,000 to clear approximately a 13-acre area. Not clear but clear the underbrush and selectively cut trees.

Alderman O'Neil asked so that is all you are looking for is an extra \$8,000 to \$10,000 just to thin out...we are not going to do a clear cut.

Mr. DePrima answered to thin out and to restore some of the views that have long since been lost up there even from the tower.

Alderman O'Neil asked so \$10,000 is the only additional request and we are not planning on getting the LCHIP money correct.

Mr. DePrima answered it sounds like that funding has been cut.

Alderman Gatsas stated well there is funding there. It hasn't been but 100%. When I first started with this project it was like a \$50,000 project. How did it end up \$196,000?

Mr. Ludwig stated I think the circumstances were different earlier on. We had Mr. Martel in who spoke to that issue and I believe what he said at the time was he needed a minimal amount of money to button up the roof and do some minor repairs to slow down further deterioration. In fact some of their work even in that number was going to be done through some volunteers and some in-kind service at that point.

Alderman Gatsas stated I am looking at \$60,000 that are costs that aren't even going anywhere. There is a \$15,000 contingency, soft cost of \$21,000, \$8,000 for an inflation factor. I am looking at this project and saying...did we get somebody to bid this or is this just an architect telling us this is what it is going to cost us?

Mr. Ludwig responded it is an architect that we use frequently between the Facilities Division and the Parks Division. It is not a huge firm but it is an individual who will typically come in on his own time and give us a ballpark figure to do the work. This will go out to bid and we will take a look at what the bids are and once we go out for engineering we will do a formal analysis of what really needs to be done. Maybe it gets done for less.

Alderman Gatsas stated the only problem I have with the process that we proceed in is we kind of tell everybody how much money we have that they can bid on.

Mr. Ludwig responded always.

Alderman Gatsas asked so how do you possibly think...why would somebody come in and tell you if they know there is \$196,000 on the table that they can do it for \$55,000.

Mr. Ludwig answered well we would like to think in conjunction with again I think Facilities would be very much involved with this and I think they have a very good idea of what some of the individual costs would be such as sandblasting, water pressure washing, repointing brick or doing what needs to be done. So we can get a schedule of values and take a look at that. We don't just issue bids in lumpsums.

Alderman Gatsas asked can this project be done in-house.

Mr. Ludwig asked by whom.

Alderman Gatsas answered Facilities.

Mr. Ludwig stated you would have to ask them.

Tim Clougherty, Chief Facilities Manager, stated no.

Alderman Gatsas asked Highway can't do it either.

Alderman O'Neil stated some of the soft costs we may be able to address. For instance, Facilities has a Clerk of the Works on staff. We shouldn't be hiring a Clerk of the Works through the architect so we should be able to save some money there correct?

Mr. Sheppard responded we will work with Parks as we have on this project from the beginning or the past six months of this project to identify what needs to get done and we will do whatever we can to save money. I think Mr. Ludwig mentioned that we do know the cost of work out there and when we do receive competitive bids even though every summer we put out bids and even though contractors know the numbers that we have based on the CIP there is competition out there and I think that is what drives the prices down is competition. Just because a contractor knows a number doesn't mean they bid to that number. The state does it that way and the City does it that way. That is how government works. They allocate money and then we bid projects.

Alderman Gatsas asked is that road going to be closed off or is it going to be open for people to go up.

Chairman Garrity answered I think that is why we asked Parks to come tonight because we need to address some of those issues.

Mr. Ludwig stated the way it stands now is probably the best way. You can walk up there or bike or run or job. I think to ask people to go park up there based on the views, which are limited to none right now, has little value as far as I am concerned other than for some bad behavior. Under another venue if it gets thinned out and the views are improved I think Alderman Gatsas the idea was to try to get more activity up there like people wanting to eat lunch, etc. without Parks having to be the Police Department in terms of the activities.

Alderman Gatsas replied I can appreciate that Weston Tower is a very critical historic place in the City but if we aren't going to have total access maybe what we need to look at is something that says and obviously you are hearing this from an Alderman and there is \$196,000 on the table and I say to you that if we could button it up through the clearing of trees so that the site is a little bit more visible

and make sure we protect the structure from anymore damage that I would rather see some of that money moved to Derryfield Park to expand the playground where the activity and the access is going to be. Maybe if we can cut \$8,000 worth of trees going to Weston Tower and we use \$50,000 to button up the building maybe we can use the other \$150,000 at Derryfield Park to expand the park with some more equipment. I think those are issues that as a City utilization of that park equipment is huge. If we can expand it and more kids have an opportunity because I think that park is used by inner-city kids. I am not looking to say no don't do Weston Tower but if it is not going to be a full facility that everybody can utilize and drive up and do what they want to do then I think that putting this kind of money into it with the possibility of additional vandalism is something I question.

Chairman Garrity asked do you have an estimate of what it would cost to redo Weston Tower and make it accessible on a regular basis and make it a safe place to go.

Mr. Ludwig answered no because even the consultant that we hired recently was struggling with how to tie Weston Tower to Derryfield Park and how to move around the area to attract more people. We have looked at putting athletic fields up there and some other things to encourage more people up there to make it self-policing so that we don't create an area for Police who have to dedicate so much time up there. To answer Alderman Gatsas' question a little bit I think what you are looking at in this historical structure is just that. This is not a winterized building. There is no heat in it. It is subject to the climate we live in so you are constantly looking at freezing and thawing so it is really a difficult structure to maintain over time. I think that is the issue that we struggle with. We go up there and clean it out and we sweep it but quite frankly based on the people we have had in the past and the people we are going to have in the future we have even less ability to go up there and do the kind of spring and fall maintenance that a building that goes through season changes with no heat in it quite frankly goes through. If you take a look at your house and you don't put any heat in it all winter take a look at what it would look like in the spring.

Alderman O'Neil stated when the request came from Mr. Martel and his committee this thing was supposed to be fairly limited and it has kind of gotten a life of its own. I am interested in fixing Weston Tower so it is safe and accessible. I am not interested in redoing the road and opening it up to vehicular traffic. We have been through that. There have been nothing but problems up there. If people want to hike up or bike up or walk up that is fine but let's stay within the scope of what the original intent was. I don't think the budget number is far off. I think it is a little heavy in my opinion. Let's see if we can plug away at it to make it more affordable. They can accomplish the thinning out that they want to within the

\$196,000 I believe. The soft costs are pretty high. I don't know and maybe Tim Clougherty can tell us...Tim for a \$200,000 project is 10% a good number.

Mr. Clougherty responded again just to clarify are you talking about the soft costs.

Alderman O'Neil replied correct.

Mr. Clougherty stated I don't think it is an extraordinary number.

Alderman O'Neil asked all of the bullets identified for building construction do those all need to be done. Does anybody know?

Mr. Clougherty answered yes. In order to open the facility the way you are talking I think yes you have to do all of those things without a doubt.

Alderman Lopez stated I know Alderman Gatsas asked for the people...For Manchester is handling it and Louie Martel. I worked with his father and this will be the third time I agree if you are not going to open it up then you better do minimum...this will be the third time we have gone back to get the numbers but it was a volunteer service under Mr. Martel's father and a group of people and there is documentation on that. I don't see why the carpenters and people who did it before...volunteers have done things in the City before. I think this thing got out of hand for the simple reason that we have engineers and everybody else try to make it the Taj Mahal so to speak and that is not what they are talking about. They can fix this thing for less than \$196,000 to get it usable to go up on weekends. I would take a very good look at it.

Alderman Gatsas replied if we can do it for less I want to make sure we don't give the money away. I would like to see that money moved to Derryfield Park to increase the size of the playground because as I said it is the most utilized playground in the City. That is just my opinion. Can we ask Parks to get us a rough number on what it would cost...

Chairman Garrity interjected just to open it up on the weekends.

Alderman Gatsas stated yes.

Alderman Duval stated if it can be used on weekends it can be used anytime. Essential repairs I think is key. It is falling apartment. It really is. I am out there all the time. I walk my dog up there so I am up there five or six times a week and I am right by the tower. I noticed this year it really took a hit with the winter weather. A couple of large granite blocks have fallen from the tower. It is reaching that critical point of probably no return if we wait too long. I don't know

if there are essential repairs we can make and then revisit and put it on the plan for five or six years from now or something like that. I sort of agree with where the Committee is going.

Alderman O'Neil stated just reviewing the building construction and the items to be done I really don't see anything extraordinary there. It is all kind of general items. We did ask the structural engineers to take a look at it. Maybe it is what it is. I heard talk about a lot of other things that kind of got away from the basic principle. I don't necessarily have a problem with the \$196,000. Again, I thought the soft cost was a little high but let's keep it in the framework of getting this thing functional. Maybe if we can save some money...I don't know in that \$21,000 but we have a Clerk of the Works on staff working for Facilities and they should be involved in this project.

Chairman Garrity replied I agree and I can't see why we have Clerk costs in this estimate. That doesn't make any sense to me. That was one of the reasons for the new Facilities Division was it not Alderman O'Neil?

Alderman O'Neil responded I believe so.

Mr. Clougherty stated if I may just comment on that. I didn't work hand in hand with the architect in putting this number together. That is perhaps the reason the Clerk is spelled out in here but regardless of whether it is a Clerk of the Works that we are using on the street or the Clerk of the Works that is employed in my Facilities Division as a source of revenue we also charge the salary for our Clerk of the Works for several bonded projects in order to minimize that impact on the City. So one way or the other the Clerk is a cost to the project.

- i) request of Alderman Thibault for funding of Chronic Drain project at 323 Thornton Street

Chairman Garrity asked this is a pretty small number. Do we have to find added funds for this?

Mr. Sheppard answered the chronic drain we discussed earlier with the major drain projects. We have got probably \$50,000 worth of work identified. There is \$35,000 allocated. This project, I believe, would make the cut within that \$35,000.

- j) request of Alderman Forest for funding in the amount of \$109,100 for lighting and signage at the West Junior Deb Softball Fields

Alderman Forest stated let me just bring you up-to-date on the history of this project. In 2004 I was working with Ron Johnson at the time to renovate West Junior Deb Ballpark. There was a list of items that were requested to do the park. The total cost was around \$400,000 or \$500,000. With Ron I believe I had applied for bonding for the project and somehow somewhere there was bonding for the project but it was cut in half so the project was never completed. In the meantime the Highway Department had come over and extended the parking lot and removed fencing and the wooden arches that were there or the wooden gate that was there and actually never replaced that. There was a gate put in, which again was a cost process. The gate was downgraded and was not the gate that was actually there but in order to make a long story short the lighting of the field was also an item that was cut. The arch and entrance to the field was an item that was cut. I am just requesting the money for the arch, which is \$9,100 and the lighting...actually I wanted both fields lit for Class L tournaments and all of that, which we can't do without the lighting and ASA tournaments, which we can't do without the lighting. I am only requesting the \$109,000, which is to pay for the lighting on one field and \$9,100 for the arch and that is the reason for the request.

Alderman O'Neil asked West Junior Deb is by West Side Arena.

Alderman Forest answered yes it is behind West Side Arena. There are three fields there.

Alderman O'Neil asked what do we call that in general.

Alderman Forest answered it is called West Junior Deb Field.

Alderman O'Neil asked where is the Piscataquog River Park.

Alderman Forest answered that I don't know. I know it is on the East Side of the river.

Alderman O'Neil stated that has almost \$600,000 in the...

Alderman Forest interjected maybe Bob or Sam can explain that. I was under the impression that I had asked for bonding again to finish the project and I was under the impression that money was for that project. I am told by both Sam and Bob that it is not.

Alderman O'Neil asked can somebody explain the \$563,000 and where that is.

Mr. MacKenzie stated there was a request for Piscataquog East from Parks & Recreation but that was not as requested earmarked to the West Junior Deb field. There are other spaces in the Piscataquog Park that...

Alderman O'Neil interjected is East near West Junior Deb.

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked can we get some clarification.

Alderman Forest stated from what I understand it is for a football field.

Chairman Garrity asked can we get some clarification on the Piscataquog River Park East.

Mr. Ludwig asked can you help me out. I was in another discussion.

Alderman O'Neil stated in the Mayor's recommended CIP \$563,750 is recommended for Piscataquog River Park East. Can you tell us what that is going towards?

Mr. Ludwig responded there is a piece of property that we have had on our radar scope for a long time, which runs parallel to the existing railroad corridor between the end of Douglas Street Extension and the West Side Ice Arena. We have had it in our plan and the consultants identified it in the Master Plan for us to get another football field on the West Side of the City. As you know...

Chairman Garrity interjected so that was a priority in the Parks Master Plan.

Mr. Ludwig replied yes it was and it was a priority basically because we said there is a need for an additional football field over there. This Committee may or may not remember that when West Athletic Complex was completed it brought a lot of use back to the complex that was never there before. In other words, West teams that had never used the facility because it was in such poor condition now want to use the facility and that same thing has happened with Memorial as well. It was the Parks job or responsibility at that point to go out and find space for other recreation teams that were being displaced by additional high school use at these facilities. Those namely were South Sabres in the south end who get a little use of Memorial and also the West Raiders on the West Side, which I was able to move over to the Piscataquog River Park. Since then we have redone the baseball field for West High School and last year I had the West Raiders playing on the outfield of the new baseball field, which isn't the best of conditions because it is really damaging to the turf. So we looked at this side of the river and said is this a place

we could potentially go with a football field for West Raiders and to accommodate lacrosse, which seems to be coming much bigger in the City, in the spring. We looked at the location. It is a little remote but our idea is to try and tie in some parking behind the West Side Arena on certain occasions and the railroad corridor to this project. That is why we looked at it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know if it is a combination of wards. Is it 11 and 12?

Alderman Forest replied yes. Mostly in Ward 11.

Alderman O'Neil asked can you guys get together and figure out where your priorities are on this Riverpark East as well as what you want to accomplish at West Junior Deb.

Alderman Forest answered I have been trying to do that and that is why I am here. Again, West High girl's softball uses Junior Deb's field as their home field. It is not near enough to a school other than Parkside to try to get school funds for it because we are about two blocks off from the school district so there is no way to get school funds. This project has been going on for three years and it keeps getting cut back. Each time I check on funds I am told they are there and then they are gone somewhere else. That is why I am here. I just want to finish that project.

Alderman O'Neil stated maybe Parks can get together with Alderman Thibault and Alderman Forest and work something out.

Mr. Ludwig stated on behalf of Alderman Forest the initial request that was put in and I apologize because I was talking out back and Alderman Forest might have already said this but the initial request was like \$400,000 for West Junior Deb and an additional \$600,000 to finish the West baseball field. What we got for funding to be split between those two projects that year was \$500,000. Alderman Forest basically got \$250,000. We didn't even think we had enough money to do the baseball field on the West Side of the Piscataquog River but we bid it out and got a very favorable number. Even though the contractor knew the number we got a very favorable number. So we were able to do both jobs but Alderman Forest did get slighted a little bit. I am not here to defend him but that is what happened.

Alderman Duval stated I think I missed what you were saying but the fact that it is home field for the West High girl's softball team how does that factor in again. I mean it is their home field.

Alderman Forest responded they are using it as their home field. It is not...most high schools like West boys have their own field. They have West Memorial field like Memorial has Memorial field on Jewett Street. West High girls didn't.

Alderman Duval stated but the fact that it is West girl's home field doesn't that help with the funding part of it.

Alderman Forest replied I wish it did. I have been talking to Dave Gosselin, the Athletic Director at the school. It is not in the School District. It is about two blocks off. Ron may be able to explain that one.

Mr. Ludwig stated not to belabor the point because there is a lot to be said here on different issues tonight but West High School girl's softball was typically assigned to Wolfe Park. Again, this is the men's softball field. That field in the spring because it really needs a lot of work, doesn't drain very well. The skinned area doesn't drain well and dugouts flood and games were being cancelled there on a regular basis in the spring. The athletic director at the School District asked if they could move over to these fields so they effectively became the home field for West High School. I think if you are going down the road is there funding that could be done through the School District there that is a discussion that this Committee would have to have on their behalf and that way it would help them but it hasn't happened at this point.

Alderman Forest stated originally there was enough funding to do the project and there was also some funding...actually I thought I had asked and it wasn't put in for the FY07 budget but the West Side Arena needs \$380,000 for a new roof and everything else and that was originally in my request to and that has been cut out somewhere.

Chairman Garrity stated we will try to figure this out in May.

- k) request of Alderman Lopez for funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the International Institute

Alderman Lopez stated this \$10,000 and I can ask Sam or Mr. MacKenzie to elaborate a little more on it but it is for legal fees that we have been giving the International Institute for a number of years for the citizens of Manchester from foreign countries to process applications and stuff like that. I would ask Mr. MacKenzie or Sam to elaborate a little more.

Mr. MacKenzie stated the City has funded that program. Basically they provide translation services to a lot of people to help with their legal issues because that is one of the major barriers to getting the assistance. It was not funded this year. I think that after reviewing it the only place you can get the \$10,000 would be cash. It doesn't not appear to fit into any other program.

Alderman Lopez stated I would ask the Committee to take a good look at it because it does provide a great service to the citizens of Manchester.

- 1) request of Alderman Lopez for funding in the amount of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to upgrade the Civil War Memorial Fountain in Veterans Park

Alderman Lopez stated once again this is a project that has been going on with a young man who has been fixing up the Civic War monument. We had some money last year that we transferred for some funds and now he is asking to complete the project for the painting and everything as so indicated in the letter there. So this is a great program that he has taken on personally as an individual to get that monument up and running and he has been working with Parks & Recreation and Sam to make sure that things are up to par over there. I think this is a great cause.

Alderman Duval asked which fountain is that again.

Alderman Lopez answered the Civil War monument on the right as you go in.

Alderman Duval asked and it is almost 100% functional now.

Alderman Lopez answered it is but there is a lot of painting that has to be done and making sure the water is running properly and fixing up...

Alderman Duval interjected so this will completely button up the project and make it 100% functional.

Alderman Lopez replied I think so. This is his the last stage. He has been working on it for two years. He has donated a lot of his time and money.

Alderman Duval stated I agree and I think the City owes a debt to him really. He has taken it upon himself and really fought hard to generate private funding for it and dedicated, I am sure, a lot of time himself.

Alderman O'Neil asked can you just tell me how he arrived at the \$10,000 to \$15,000 number.

Alderman Lopez answered I think in the past he has gotten money donated to do what he could and I think he came up with the figure of \$10,000 or \$15,000...

Alderman O'Neil interjected can we put it towards...I know in his letter he talks about the pump and doing some sealing...it might just be helpful because we might be able to find another way to get there is my point.

Alderman Lopez stated he could probably do that but he gets assistance from volunteers...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I understand that but somehow he had to arrive at how he needed \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Alderman Lopez responded we can provide that to the Committee.

Chairman Garrity asked is there a total cost for the project.

Alderman Lopez answered well if we totaled it it would be a lot more than the money we put in. He just took it on. He was sick and tired of the way it looked. The lights were busted for a number of years and different things and he just took on the project himself and asked for assistance. Alderman O'Neil was the Chairman at that time and we had about \$6,000 left over in some account and we gave that to him. He worked with Sam. He doesn't just get the money. He has to prove everything.

- m) Highway Department – Management Software System purchase

Chairman Garrity stated I put this request on. I don't think it is a necessary purchase. I would like to have Kevin Sheppard come up and explain the system.

Alderman Lopez stated I wanted to mention his name and it is Tim P. Gelinas who has been doing the work. He lives up on the North End. He has a phone number of 625-8931 if anyone wants to make donations or help out.

Chairman Garrity stated regarding this purchase for the Highway Department I just think with the budget constraints of the City right now I don't see a need for \$250,000 in software. I now when I go into the Highway Department or the Highway Department calls each Aldermen and asks what have you been getting for request for streets or I will go in there and say I would like this street done and

they say oh great that one really needs it. That is basically what this management system is going to do. I think the Highway Department staff pretty much know which streets in the City need to be paved. I think these are funds that could be available for other things. I don't know how the Committee feels but if you would like Kevin Sheppard to give a presentation on it I know it has been a request from the Highway Department for a number of years.

Alderman Osborne stated I would like to hear it.

Mr. Sheppard stated what the request is for is what we call a Road Surface Management Survey. It is a very labor intensive survey that is done by a consultant who has done these surveys...the quote we received at the time was from a consultant who is in the business of it. Obviously we would go out for an RFP but they go out and actually rate the streets and help assist us in determining the priority of the streets and which streets need to be reconstructed, resurfaced or left alone. As part of that number we were also going to be doing a sign inventory, sidewalk/curb, ramp and tree inventory. So earlier we discussed sidewalks and the need for a Master Plan on sidewalks. This would help us. This would identify all of the sidewalks and the condition of the sidewalks and help us set priorities. It would help us set priorities for street resurfacing and street reconstruction. That is what this does and many towns and cities do it. One of the biggest parts of this is once it is developed it is important to fund it also. Once it is not funded it is similar to the MER program the City developed probably 10 or 15 years ago. It was a great program but once it wasn't funded the numbers and priorities changed over time. This is something that once it is done it is a great program. It does need to be updated every year. We believe this is a great idea.

Chairman Garrity replied I just don't think it is a priority. I think the mid level staff in the Highway Department could perform this function if they haven't already on most of the City streets. They have graded a lot of the City streets. Each ward must have about 20 or 30 grades on the list. They have been out there grading streets for a number of years and I think that \$250,000 is a lot of money in the fiscal times where we need some constraint.

Alderman Osborne asked how much does it cost to fund it each year.

Mr. Sheppard answered I would say probably another \$5,000 or \$10,000 just to maintain it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know and I think we need to be honest about surfacing. Generally what happens is there is a budget number and then it is pretty close to divided by 12. That has worked and it has been effective and I believe the right...the department working with the ward Aldermen the proper streets get

done. I remember when I was in Ward 4 that I would come in with a recommendation and staff would say that was done eight years ago how about you take a look at some of these other streets. I think our current system works. My concern is that we spend this money and then it still comes down to the Aldermen working with the department to determine what streets get done.

Mr. Sheppard responded that obviously could be an issue. By going through this program it would help us assist in determining priorities throughout the City so in one ward you may be getting \$90,000 for resurfacing this year and in another ward we might do only \$10,000.

Chairman Garrity stated well you just killed the program.

Mr. Sheppard replied I want to be honest with you. That is what this program does. It sets priorities Citywide. It doesn't have ward boundaries.

Alderman Lopez asked how does this relate to the GIS.

Mr. Sheppard answered this would be integrated into the GIS similar to...I believe you saw a presentation at the last Board meeting. There are several layers on the GIS and this would create a layer on that GIS. The GIS would be the base map for this plan. It really isn't done as part of GIS but this would be brought in and put in the GIS as a layer.

Alderman Lopez asked for \$250,000.

Mr. Sheppard answered a majority of that money is the actual survey of the City streets and driving every City street and identifying what we call nodes along the street, condition of the sidewalks, trees, the curb. That is the majority of the up front cost of this.

Alderman O'Neil asked is there a and I have to be honest tonight I am not particularly in favor of this program but can you get us some background on what communities have used it and if they can show some results on how it has made some positive changes in those communities.

Mr. Sheppard answered sure. There are many towns actually in the state that use a software that was developed out of the UNH Technology & Transfer Center. They use that program, which really wouldn't fit into a city or an urban environment but they have used that program, done a town wide study and then funded...for example Bedford I believe did a 10 year bond for \$12 million to reinforce the plan that came forward.

Alderman O'Neil asked is it possible the vendor can get some information.

Mr. Sheppard answered sure and we can talk to some towns.

Alderman Roy stated I, for one, am one of those Aldermen who think that we should take the political process out of the paving structure that we have and I definitely support this. It is not my request but I do think it is time that we look Citywide at our infrastructure. Aldermen come and go every couple of years and Mayors come and go it seems every six to ten years so if we are going to look at our infrastructure with serious commitment we need to go ahead and look at it on a Citywide basis and I, for one, would be the first to say that if my ward needs \$100,000 and a ward doesn't need anything then Ward 1 should get it. I would also be the first to say that if some other ward needed \$100,000 worth of repairs and Ward 1 was taken care of previously then we should go ahead and give it to that other ward.

Chairman Garrity replied I take offense to your statement that it is a political process. I know it is not a political process in Ward 9 and Alderman O'Neil just stated it wasn't a political process. When there is a ward that has recently been paved and I get a request from a constituent and I ask the Highway Department to look into it they flatly tell you no we are not going to pave that street because there are streets that are in worse shape.

Alderman Roy responded I am not saying it is political in the sense that we make it political. It is political in the sense that the monies get divided within the 12 wards and when there is that division it causes problems with our infrastructure. There may be a street in Ward 8 or 2 or 5 or 7 that is worse than the worst street in my ward and I would rather see that street get paved and then when it is my wards turn we take care of my ward.

Alderman Gatsas asked Mr. Sheppard can you tell me...there are 12 wards in this City. Can you tell me if any one ward is any worse than any other ward and if you spent \$50,000 in each ward because if you spend \$100,000 the guy that is 12th by that time is going to be on the very short end of a stick.

Mr. Sheppard answered based on the funding that we receive we do divide it up by wards because there are streets in every ward that need resurfacing. There is no question on that. If we were to resurface based on what the City really needs we would probably need 10 times what we get for funding but because of the funding we have there are streets in every ward that need resurfacing and that is one of the reasons we do divide it up by ward. Every Alderman does have priorities. We do work with the Aldermen as was said. I think every Alderman understands that just

because they have asked for a street that doesn't mean we will agree with that street. We discuss it with the Alderman and go out and rate the streets.

Alderman Osborne stated we have \$550,000. We all know that. It comes from registration and is earmarked for resurfacing period. That is all it can be used for right? Back 20 or 25 years ago when I was an Alderman and I have said this before but I am going to repeat it again, we used to take from the general fund \$800,000 to \$850,000. Since they have received the \$550,000 from the registrations they depleted the other end of it. Why? If we were to fund repaving like we are supposed to be funding it we wouldn't have the problems we have right now. I think we should look more to that then spending money on a lot of other things. I think it is time to start here because we are 50 years behind the time with streets and curbs and sidewalks. This is something to look forward to.

Alderman Shea stated one of the thoughts that occurred to me is I am next to Alderman DeVries and she and I had to combine our resources in order to pave a street. Every ward in the City has that. Again, to me there is nothing like going out with Steve Tierney and saying Steve rate the street and so forth. Not that in a long range plan this couldn't be beneficial but person to person that is the way that you do business. In other words, you go out and view your streets and see what conditions they are in. You put them on a prioritized list and you try to be fair and equitable and you try to have other Aldermen work together and you help out other Aldermen in that regard. With this system maybe it will work in identifying things but in the final analysis it comes down to what your priorities as an Alderman are and not take it away...we are elected officials and it shouldn't be in the hands of a machine or technology and so forth. That would be a concern that I would express. Again it is one voice out of many.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to bring a couple of things to your attention. Is this program because of GIS?

Mr. Sheppard responded no.

Alderman Lopez asked is this a new technology.

Mr. Sheppard answered no.

Alderman Lopez stated I was hoping you were going to say yes because it was a source to get money.

Chairman Garrity stated I think we are going to delete item o because Alderman O'Neil has a letter to the Committee and that is in there also. We will just start with the memo from Alderman O'Neil and we will start with number one please.

Alderman O'Neil stated Brenda Dwyer is here as well as other representatives from Parks & Recreation but it is...the after school program and the Fun In the Sun Program that I believe are the two major programs that Brenda runs and has run for years are very successful. They have operated well within the Parks & Recreation structure. I just...to be honest I haven't spoken to the Mayor about this but I know that the Mayor had recommended moving all of them to OYS and I would just strongly suggest that we consider moving them back to Parks & Recreation.

Chairman Garrity responded since it is not a fiscal impact I would be happy to take a motion to that effect tonight.

Alderman O'Neil moved to transfer the administration of the after school and Fun in the Sun programs from OYS back to Parks & Recreation.

Alderman Duval duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated I don't have a problem but can this wait until tomorrow night and we can check with the Mayor to see why he did it.

Chairman Garrity stated there is no fiscal impact. We are just moving them back to where they were. Just like we did on Gill Stadium where there was no fiscal impact on Gill Stadium. If there is a fiscal impact to increase or decrease I am not accepting the motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated we can make the motion tomorrow night but the Chairman said he wanted to get it cleared up tonight.

Chairman Garrity called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Osborne stated I would like to ask Ron Ludwig what he thinks about it. Can we get him up here and ask him what his views are on this particular transfer?

Mr. Ludwig stated I have not seen and I probably don't need it but the Parks programming is a special part of any Parks & Recreation Department. To remove programs as we know them and a lot of people think this is just a few programs but this is all programming that we do in the department, which is not just Fun in the Sun, which is our largest summer program, it is all programs we do like Saturday basketball, after school programs and such. To remove it we just couldn't see the issue there. Now I have had conversations with the Mayor's Office and it was indicated to me that there is not a great deal of concern on their

part. I won't speak for Sean Thomas who is here and can speak for himself but there was some thought about this is kids and those are kids and it is probably a better place but I think they have taken a look at it and probably feel that they don't have an issue either way. I don't think I am misspeaking.

Alderman Osborne asked so you don't have a problem with this motion.

Mr. Ludwig answered no.

Alderman O'Neil stated one of the best things we have going in this City and Brenda who I don't know has ever been here at City Hall, she should be applauded seriously.

Chairman Garrity asked what is the next item Alderman O'Neil.

Alderman O'Neil stated I wanted to go on record as having a concern about the MER. I know the Fire Department indicated a concern. We should be on schedule to purchase at least one piece of fire apparatus within the next two years, which currently doesn't exist. I also have concerns about Highway. Granted we can share dumptrucks and pick-up trucks but we can't share if a garbage truck goes down and we don't have a spare garbage truck it creates problems in the City or other specialized equipment. I think we need to do some work on it. I don't have the answers today. I just wanted to go on record as I am concerned regarding the bonded side of the MER especially and I think we need to take a better look at the gas side. That is just for future discussions.

Chairman Garrity asked do you want to talk to Kevin and Chief Monnelly at this time.

Alderman O'Neil stated unless they have something specific...okay bring them both up real quick. Chief Monnelly the only reason we did not purchase more than one in the last two years was the one piece of apparatus that was purchased was significant in cost I believe at what price tag.

Frank Monnelly, Deputy Fire Chief, stated Truck 3 on Mammoth Road was replaced this year at a cost of \$870,000.

Alderman O'Neil stated so that was one of the reasons we spread out over two years. You do have a priority list regarding replacing a piece of apparatus.

Deputy Chief Monnelly replied that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked and Engine 9 is the next piece to be replaced.

Deputy Chief Monnelly answered yes it is.

Alderman O'Neil asked and it is our last open cab piece of apparatus in the City.

Deputy Chief Monnelly answered right. That is the only one that currently does not meet NEPA standards.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think we moved forward on getting the fire fleet in a decent status. I remember it wasn't too long ago when we had to take one of the spares off the road. Am I correct?

Deputy Chief Monnelly replied that is correct. It was taken off a year ago and that has not been replaced. It will be replaced with Engine 9 if Engine 9 gets replaced.

Alderman O'Neil asked so that would give you a third engine and if we don't have enough replacements than that leaves us out of service then.

Deputy Chief Monnelly answered that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked Kevin are there specialized garbage trucks, front end loaders, etc. at Highway that would be due this year.

Mr. Sheppard answered our top priorities this year are actually dumptrucks. We have three 1988 Mac trucks that are our priority. If those don't get replaced probably this year they will be coming off the year. They are 18 years old and they are used for plowing and construction.

Alderman O'Neil asked do you use them to haul asphalt or snow.

Mr. Sheppard answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked so we have gotten our monies worth out of those and then some.

Mr. Sheppard answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think it is just something that the Committee needs to take a look at Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Garrity asked did the Fire Department make a request to the Mayor's Office for a piece of apparatus.

Deputy Chief Monnelly answered yes we did.

Chairman Garrity asked what is getting funded in the \$506,000. I have a memo here from the Mayor dated today. The last bulletpoint says \$506,600 for equipment replacement in Building, Fire, Highway and Parks. I guess Kevin could answer that question.

Mr. Sheppard answered I worked with Sean Thomas. Quite honestly I had put together a recommendation for the Mayor's Office and my recommendation for the \$506,000 was two of those Mac trucks that I discussed, one vehicle for the Building Department at \$15,000; the Fire Department their first four priorities were vehicles...

Chairman Garrity interjected what kind of vehicles.

Deputy Chief Monnelly stated the first four were cars.

Mr. Sheppard stated the fifth vehicle was the pumper that was discussed earlier. Because the pumper was \$535,000 that would have eaten up the full amount. My recommendation was those first four vehicles and then Parks & Recreation has some vehicles in pretty tough shape so the first four vehicles on their list.

Alderman O'Neil asked is the \$506,000 cash.

Mr. Sheppard answered yes it is.

Alderman O'Neil asked so there isn't any bonded money in the MER. Kevin, are those dumptrucks...can those be bonded or are they generally a cash appropriation?

Mr. Sheppard answered they have been bonded in the past.

Alderman O'Neil stated I just think it is something that we need to take a look at over the next month or so.

Chairman Garrity asked how long does it take to order a pumper.

Deputy Chief Monnelly answered delivery time is generally between nine and twelve months. That is from the time it is ordered.

Alderman DeVries asked are we looking at the MER as a two-year budget item as we are with the other CIP bonded items.

Mr. Sheppard answered I believe we are looking at it as one year because it is a cash allocation. I am not too sure what the intent was.

Alderman DeVries stated it might be nice as we go forward with the discussion to get clarification so we know if we are looking at two year's worth, especially if we are going to consider a bond.

Chairman Garrity asked what is your next item, Alderman O'Neil.

Alderman O'Neil stated it has been brought to my attention and I don't know what happened to the request but there has traditionally been CIP support for some various employee programs through the HR Department. I don't know if the request got into the Mayor's Office or not. I just bring that up for discussion and I think...I wasn't here earlier but I believe item 5 you already talked about so I will end my discussion with that.

Chairman Garrity asked what are the funding sources for the employee programs.

Mr. MacKenzie stated there were items that were funded last year and the only funding source we are aware of would be cash.

Alderman O'Neil asked in the past has that been funded through cash.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes it has.

Alderman O'Neil asked and that has been an ongoing program correct.

Mr. MacKenzie answered probably for the last five or six years. I know the training programs and the employee recognition programs...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I guess I skipped item 3 but I would ask for support of the VISTA Program.

Alderman Roy stated I was at the VISTA Volunteers appreciation today and the Mayor announced additional federal funding for the VISTA Program.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to make a comment in reference to support for the HR Director. Five years ago when I started working on the Quality Council for the City employees and this has been a tremendous program and they have come a long way with participation and the communications from City Matters and other things that they do in that program. I wish the Committee would return the money otherwise it isn't going to happen.

Chairman Garrity asked how much was the funding last year.

Mr. MacKenzie answered I think it was \$40,000 cash.

Alderman DeVries stated on behalf of the Police Department I was asked to bring forward a request and in my opinion this is something we ought to look at with contingency dollars for \$1,800. They have requested assistance for funding an additional boot that they use for...vehicle immobilizers I guess is the proper term for it. There is a memo. We are going to refer this either to the next meeting unless he allows us...

Chairman Garrity interjected if you are asking for contingency why is it coming to this Committee.

Alderman DeVries stated because you don't have another meeting until May 15 and it would be nice to get this rolling.

Chairman Garrity replied we have a full Board meeting don't we. This is CIP and you are asking for contingency. Are you asking for contingency out of the general fund?

Alderman DeVries stated I am asking to get this on the agenda to be taken care of however you find best and most appropriate.

Chairman Garrity asked could we refer it to the full Board.

Alderman DeVries stated I do have an item and we weren't able to get the detail from the Highway Department on time to make the agenda for tonight but it is a rather severe road drainage issue that I would like to have referred to the next meeting. I think that is one that I discussed with the Chair ahead of time. We will have the full detail for the May 15 meeting. Is that when we are meeting again?

Chairman Garrity replied tentatively that is when we are meeting.

Alderman DeVries stated as I brought up earlier my request would be to have on that agenda as well an increase to the chronic drain of \$15,000 and maybe ask the Highway Department as discussed previously to bring us a list of priorities and projects that are waiting there.

Alderman Lopez stated I have two comments. I want to speak on behalf of Aldermen Smith, Forest, Thibault and myself who visited the Neighborhood Revitalization on Second Street. In the bonding of 612407 and CDBG money 810907 I would like to insert the words "Second Street" in those paragraphs. The

other comment that I would like to mention is that in the CIP budget there are quite a few notes that state “future funding should be considered within the departments”. I think if this money goes to the departments they can utilize that money any way they want. I would be very careful about not having CIP fund some of these projects where the money has to go to these projects. Just keep that in mind. Please look at those notes.

Chairman Garrity replied you are probably talking about the employee thing that we just discussed.

Alderman Lopez responded I am talking about various projects and notes here. For example, not just the request from HR but Parks & Recreation has a note that says future funding should be considered in the operation budget and that is \$65,000 for park improvement. Stuff like that. Just look at the notes. I am just making the Committee aware that if we are going to have departments fund this stuff it is going to become a low priority in their department.

Chairman Garrity stated the process is going to be that we are going to meet with the agencies that have been requested to come in front of us tomorrow night. If anybody has any concerns or questions on anything on the agenda I urge you to attend. In May we are going to try to figure out where we are going to fund these future requests and what we are going to deduct. I know the Mayor is pretty strong on his bonding capacity of \$10.3 million and he doesn't want to go over it. I think we can get there by shuffling some stuff.

Alderman Lopez stated we always have a fast track for projects. Are we going to have any?

Chairman Garrity replied I don't see any. Does the School District have any fast track projects?

Alderman Lopez stated I want the public to understand that there are certain projects that have to get done and need RFP's so I want to make the Committee aware of that.

Mr. Clougherty stated on the open concept school project and I don't know the bond number off the top of my head but it is a \$1.5 million allocation to enclose Parker-Varney elementary school.

Chairman Garrity stated we just need to know when you need an answer.

Mr. Clougherty responded as soon as possible. We are going to be getting bids in a couple of weeks.

Chairman Garrity asked will May 15 work.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes we could probably live with that.

Chairman Garrity stated okay get copies of that to each Alderman as to what the fast track projects are and the drop-dead date when you need funding by.

Mr. Clougherty replied I believe that is the only one we would need to fast track.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Duval, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee